

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
SEATTLE DIVISION**

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE
ASSOCIATION, INC., *et al.*,

Case No. 14-cv-00848RAJ

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF SEATTLE, *et al*

Defendants

**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE
BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
FOR A LIMITED PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION**

Amici Curiae the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America, American Hotel & Lodging Association, National Restaurant Association, the Asian American Hotels Owners Association, the Home Care Association of America, and the Washington Retail Association (“Amici”) respectfully move the Court for leave to file the attached amici curiae brief in support of Plaintiffs’ Motion for a Limited Preliminary Injunction. Plaintiffs do not oppose the filing of this amicus brief. Defendants take no position on the motion and reserve the right to file a response.

I. IDENTITY AND INTEREST OF AMICI

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America (Chamber) is the world's largest business federation. It represents 300,000 direct members and indirectly

1 represents the interests of more than 3 million companies and professional organizations
 2 of every size, in every industry sector, and from every region of the country. An
 3 important function of the Chamber is to represent the interests of its members in matters
 4 before Congress, the Executive Branch, and the courts. To that end, the Chamber
 5 regularly files amicus curiae briefs in cases that raise issues of concern to the nation's
 6 business community.
 7

8 The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) is the sole national
 9 association representing all segments of the 1.8 million-employee U.S. lodging industry,
 10 including hotel owners, REITs, chains, franchisees, management companies, independent
 11 properties, state hotel associations, and industry suppliers. The mission of AH&LA is to
 12 be the voice of the lodging industry, its primary advocate, and an indispensable resource.
 13 AH&LA serves the lodging industry by providing representation at the national level and
 14 in government affairs, education, research, and communications. AH&LA also represents
 15 the interests of its members in litigation raising issues of widespread concern to the
 16 lodging industry.
 17

18 The National Restaurant Association (NRA) was founded in 1919 and is the
 19 nation's largest trade association that represents and supports the restaurant and
 20 foodservice industry (the Industry) with over 500,000 member business locations. The
 21 Industry employs 13.5 million Americans in 990,000 restaurant establishments. The
 22 NRA's mission is to represent and advocate for Industry interests, primarily with national
 23 policymakers. The NRA also assists its members and the Industry by offering
 24 networking, education, and research resources and products.
 25

26 The Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) was founded in 1989
 27 and is the largest hotel owners association in the world. AAHOA represents more than
 28

1 12,500 small business owners, who own more than 20,000 properties, amounting to more
2 than 40% of all hotels in the United States. AAHOA members employ nearly 600,000
3 workers, accounting for over \$9.4 billion in payroll annually. The vast majority of
4 AAHOA members are franchisees of national hotel brands. The impact of the law at issue
5 and the instant litigation directly impacts the businesses and livelihoods of these
6 franchisees. As an organization, AAHOA represents its members in matters relating to
7 government affairs and is participating in this brief on behalf of the community of
8 hoteliers.

9
10 The Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) is the nation's first association
11 for providers of private duty home care. HCAOA was founded on the principle that
12 quality private duty home care has one model of care and that model is to employ, train,
13 monitor, and supervise caregivers, create a plan of care for the client, and work toward a
14 safe and secure environment for the person at home. HCAOA's purpose is to provide
15 leadership, representation, and education for the advancement of non-medical private duty
16 home care and provide a strong unified voice to speak to the issues of concern within the
17 private duty home care industry.

18
19 The Washington Retail Association (WRA) represents more than 3,000 store
20 fronts in the State of Washington, including both large and small retailers. A significant
21 number of the WRA's members are small businesses using the franchise-business model.
22 The WRA is concerned with the general impact of the Ordinance on its members'
23 business operations, and in particular with a local government's unequal and unfair
24 imposition of regulatory burdens on account of the use of the franchise-business model.

25
26 Amici have a significant interest in the outcome of this case. Amici's members—
27 including restaurants, hotels, franchisees, and countless other large and small businesses—
28

1 will soon be subject to an unprecedented minimum-wage increase. The Ordinance will
 2 prohibit many of Amici's members from hiring any person, regardless of their skill level
 3 and experience, to perform any job unless they pay a wage of \$15.00 per hour. The
 4 Ordinance will target many of Amici's members for disparate treatment because of their
 5 affiliation with out-of-state franchisors and fellow franchisees. As a consequence, the
 6 Ordinance likely will cause Amici's members significant and irreversible economic harm
 7 by causing them to, among other things, reduce their workforce, abandon plans to expand
 8 their businesses, raise prices, and/or reduce employee benefits. Amici thus seek to submit
 9 the attached amicus brief in order to apprise the Court of the impact of the Ordinance on
 10 their members.

12 **II. REASONS WHY MOTION SHOULD BE GRANTED**

13 District courts may consider amicus briefs from non-parties "concerning legal
 14 issues that have potential ramifications beyond the parties directly involved or if the
 15 amicus has 'unique information or perspective that can help the court beyond the help that
 16 the lawyers for the parties are able to provide.'" *Skokomish Indian Tribe v. Goldmark*,
 17 2013 WL 5720053, at *1 (W.D. Wash. 2013) (quoting *NGV Gaming, Ltd. v. Upstream*
 18 *Point Molate, LLC*, 355 F. Supp. 2d 1061, 1067 (N.D. Cal. 2005)). The role of an amicus
 19 is to assist the Court "in cases of general public interest by making suggestions to the
 20 court, by providing supplementary assistance to existing counsel, and by insuring a
 21 complete and plenary presentation of difficult issues so that the court may reach a proper
 22 decision." *Newark Branch, N.A.A.C.P. v. Harrison*, 940 F.2d 792, 808 (3d Cir. 1991).
 23 The Court has "broad discretion to appoint amicus curiae." *Skokomish Indian Tribe*, 2013
 24 WL 5720053, at *1 (citation omitted).

The Court should exercise its discretion here to allow Amici to file the attached amicus brief. As noted above, many of Amici’s members are located in the City of Seattle and thus likely will suffer serious economic consequences as a result of the Ordinance’s increase of Seattle’s minimum wage. As such, Amici are well situated to provide the Court with significant guidance as to how the Ordinance will affect Seattle businesses (and thus the City’s economy) generally, and how the discriminatory classification of franchisees as “large” employers will harm them in particular.

III. CONCLUSION

For these reasons, Amici respectfully request that the Court grant this motion for leave to file the attached amicus curiae brief.

Dated: August 12, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s Nicole J. Owren-Wiest (WA 30768)

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 12th day of August, 2014, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF System which will send notification of such filing to the following:

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